

Sacred Heart Parish
Parish Steering Committee Meeting - 14th November 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Fr Karol	Elizabeth Barker (Chairman)
Tony Haddock	Carol Bewley
David Kerr (Minutes)	Claire Downham
Rika Sanderson	Michael Read
James Howe	

Apologies

Ellen Kemp.

Minutes of 25th September 2016

These were passed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Parish computer and leaflet update: Fr Karol reported that the new computer was now installed in the Presbytery and English software installed. He would use this computer solely for parish business, including e-mails addressed to the Parish Priest and Parish Office, keeping his personal business on his own computer, which he has been using until now. He had deferred updating the leaflet until the Parish Administrator had left, but would proceed with it as soon as possible.

Update on GRAPEVINE: Elizabeth reported that the November edition is complete with final proof reading underway today. It is 60 pages long and payments for two full page adverts will cover some pages being in colour. It will include the minutes of the Open Meeting held in May. The team producing it now includes Diane Grant, Dot Wade, Ann Pyne, Fr Karol and herself.

“The Gift” series of DVDs and discussions has started with the first session attracting about 30 people. The remaining five sessions, on Tuesdays from 15th November to 13th December, are still being promoted and will hopefully attract more participation. These sessions will be supplemented by showing “The Cross” DVD (from Billy Graham) in the Hall after Masses next Sunday.

Proclaim! A presentation from the Diocese New Evangelisation Team had been made for our Deanery in our Parish Hall. About 30 people attended, including five priests from the Deanery and eight of our parishioners. Our parishioners subsequently met in the Presbytery to discuss the relevance of Proclaim! and how it might work in our parish. At that meeting, inter alia, David had undertaken to draft a potential news sheet about Proclaim! for our parishioners. (*This will hopefully be available for the Parish Open Meeting and subsequently as a newsletter supplement.*) In related discussion of the circulation of the Posada statue this Advent, Elizabeth reported a conversation with a parishioner pointing out that it is a positive experience and that we do not need always to bring people to church events but take the “church” to the home. There is also a continuous rota for parishioners who take the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe into their homes for a week at a time.

Divine Mercy Picture: Fr Karol is pursuing the placement of the picture in the church, which requires Historic Churches Commission approval to moving two Stations of the Cross.

Letter to the Vicar: The proposal for selling alcohol in the Bridge Chapel was widely challenged and had been withdrawn. A positive result was that the chapel will now be looked after by the Friends of the Norris Museum. Our letter of complaint about the comments of the Church of England vicar concerning Fr Karol had also produced a positive outcome. The vicar had phoned Fr Karol immediately and brought a bottle of

wine and explanation that “he had pressed the wrong button!” He had again made contact to discuss how ecumenical relations could be cemented. It was now agreed to again have alternating Stations of the Cross in the two churches through next Lent.

Council of Laity Meeting: Elizabeth reported on her attendance at the latest meeting and read her notes of the business most relevant to us, which is attached to these minutes. *(Her notes are attached below.)*

Items for Open Meeting on 27th November:

The agenda for the upcoming Parish Open Meeting (9.30 to 10.45, between Masses, in the Hall on Sunday morning on 27th November) was discussed and we agreed to include:

- Welcome and Opening Prayer (Fr Karol)
- Chairman’s Report (Elizabeth): this will include reference to major items from groups, with more detail from groups made available in brief written reports with copies available at the start of the meeting.

NB Group representatives on PSC are asked to write these reports and send them to Elizabeth by next Tuesday, 22nd November.

- Finance Report, including update on Alive in Faith from (Fr Karol)
- Council of Laity report, particularly covering Amoris Laetitia (Elizabeth – included in Chairman’s Report?)
- Proclaim! (Elizabeth - included in Chairman’s Report?)
- Q&A
- Fr Karol’s Report and close

Elizabeth will set out an appropriate order for these items and allocate timings to ensure completion by the absolute deadline for the finish by 10.45 am, ready for 11 am Mass. Rika will be arranging drinks and food (bacon rolls and biscuits?) for all parishioners in the Hall before the meeting, following on from the usual 8 am coffee morning (paid for through voluntary donations).

Voluntary Second Collections: An annual list of second collections has been received from the Diocese. This includes mandatory collections (which we must have) and voluntary ones. Although the voluntary ones include many good causes, we decided only to take those with particular support in our parish; ie CAFOD (not strictly second collections, but collecting donations of savings from Fast Days), Apostleship of the Sea, Diocesan Youth Service, visiting missionary appeal.

Parish Administrator: Fr Karol referred to the departure of our Parish Administrator and the process of replacing her, including a copy of the updated job description (attached). David added that a review of the role had led us to extend the hours from 16 to 20 per week and consider making two appointments – one morning a week (probably Monday) on financial systems – and three mornings plus Friday afternoon (to ensure newsletter production) on all the other duties. The office is expected to be closed on Thursdays – Fr Karol’s day off. Representatives were asked to promote this vacancy to any relevant contacts.

Any Other Business: Fr Karol gave the results of the October Mass attendance count, which was 300. This was a significant reduction from 2015, when 380 were recorded, but that included 30 at an extra Polish Mass. 2014 was 388. The earliest count found was 375 in 2009. Collection receipts are also down.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 27th February 2017 at 7.30pm

DJK: 20/12/16; Taken as Minutes (draft till approved on 27/2/17)

DJK; 22/11/16; 2nd Draft Minutes

DJK: 24/1/17 – Elizabeth’s Council of Laity Meeting Notes added.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF LAITY MEETING

November 12th, The White House, Poringland

Present – Bishop Alan Hopes and 30 representatives from parishes in East Anglia Diocese.

Bishop Alan welcomed everyone. He prayed and read from Corinthians 13 and gave time for reflection.

BISHOP'S GENERAL ITEMS

The Bishop said that the purpose of the Council of Laity was two fold

- 1 The Bishop could hear the voice of the parishes.
- 2 Through the representatives, the parishes could hear the authentic voice of the Bishop and the Church.

The Jubilee of Mercy had been a great opportunity to spread the message of love and mercy.

Thousands had passed through the Holy Door and visited our Cathedral in parish or individual Pilgrimages. The attendance for confessions had been greatly increased.

100 from our Diocese had attended the World Youth Day and there was a reunion in September.

New Catechism Course based on the Catholic Catechism, YOUCAT is very popular.

The Marriage and Family Life Commission have prepared a new Marriage preparation course in response to the New Marriage Rite. They have applied for the Imprimatur for their course.

A new user friendly Baptismal Preparation Course has been introduced.

A Diocesan Body for Social Concern has been set up under the chairmanship of Michael McMahon President of the SVP Central Council. The name for this body will be CARITAS, the same as the international body.

Nine students remain at the seminary, one has left, six men are going through the selection process to be future seminarians and another 4 have shown an interest in the priesthood. It was said that there are approximately 120 seminarians in England and Wales.

Two postulants have joined the Carmelite Convent in Quidenham and there are 5 women in the postulancy and novitiate at the Sacred Heart Convent, Swaffham.

Our shrine at Walsingham has become the centre for vocations, family life and young people .An extensive building programme is taking place including renovations to the Pilgrim Bureau. An order of nuns from the Brentwood Diocese have bought the former Sue Ryder building to open a Retreat Centre.

Bishop Alan attended a meeting of religious and political leaders in Peterborough where they discussed how to tackle the growing scandal of human trafficking. This is a big problem in East Anglia with the exploitation of rural workers, car washers and prostitution. Lenten Alms will be requested to be divided between the Medaille Trust and Aid to the Church in Need for their work in Syria. The Medaille Trust is run by a committee from the Religious Orders and deals with those

who are being exploited. They buy and set up safe houses and there is now one in Cambridge. Our Diocese are contributing to these social needs with part of the money from Alive in Faith.

Bishop's Introduction to the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*

This document, *The Joy of Love*, is the report of two Synods and the questionnaire which individual Catholic and bodies such as our PSC had the opportunity to give their views on the teaching of the Catholic Church on Marriage and Family Life.

This document should be read reflectively and not just look at the sections from comments made by the media. Meditate on Chapter 4 based on St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians ch.13.

Advice is given on teaching sexual education with compassion in schools.

Chapter 8 is the most discussed as it deals with Marriage and Divorce. There are no changes to Canon Law so that those in irregular marriage situations cannot receive Holy Communion but they should be encouraged to take their place in the Church's mission. It has to be stressed that these Catholics are still members of Christ's Church that should never abandon them but help them to grow in their Faith and if possible help them to regularise their situation through ongoing discussion and eventually, if possible admittance to the Sacraments. It should be emphasised that God still loves them and we should reach out to them with mercy.

Eighty members of the clergy in this Diocese met with Bishop Alan for a whole day to discuss and study the document as priests need to counsel these Catholics within the heart and mind of their Bishop and fellow priests. If possible they should try to bring hope to those in irregular situations. A further meeting of the clergy will be held next year to study the role of the pastor and consider suggestions from the Marriage Tribunal, the Judicial Vicar and the Commission for Marriage and Family Life.

As Catholics it is our mission also to promote the ideals of *The Joy of Love* remembering the words of St John Paul II "never dimming the light of the ideal or proposing less than Jesus offers"

The meeting concluded with group discussion of 4 questions posed by the Bishop and gave a short summary of their conclusions.